



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Jackie De Vries
Governor

Founder Region Connections

Empowering Through Education

Sept. 2026



Governor's September Message

Hello Friends,

Fall is almost here — my favorite season! Be sure to read my [September blog](#) post for all the details on the October district meetings. I hope you love District meetings as much as I do. It is a day packed with learning, reconnecting and fun!

Hope to see you all there!

🎉 **Happy 40th Anniversary to Central Oahu!**

Governor Jackie

SIA News

Driven by Dreams Campaign

Missed the launch zoom on September 2 for our new membership campaign, Driven by Dreams? SIA will be posting online. Three key strategies: Winning back lapsed members, member-get-a-member recruitment, and general new member recruitment through partnerships and community engagement. They suggested hosting a kickoff event—perhaps with racing theme elements (because it is “Driven” by Dreams).

A good way to start may be by looking at the members who have left and seeing if things have changed: for instance, in the case of civility, perhaps their learning about the code of conduct will have an impact.



Reasons for Leaving



Civility Issues

Code of Conduct process and ask for help from leaders



Lack of Time

Consider hybrid meetings and offer flexible/short-term tasks to keep them engaged



Lack of Funds

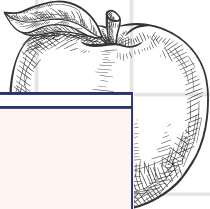
Consider sponsorships, dues relief, reach out to SIA if it's a broader issue



Mission Disconnect

Ensure your club is focused on women and girls and doing at least one Dream Program

There will be club incentive drawings and sponsor incentive drawings. Watch for more details to come soon.



More SIA News

[Club Calendar](#)

[Club Leadership Information](#)

[Sign the Leadership Code of Conduct](#)

[New Member Orientation](#) All members welcome



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

UpliftHER: Intimate Partner Violence Awareness

October's UpliftHER focus is intimate partner violence. Does your club already partner with a domestic violence shelter? Consider making it a Big Goal Project.

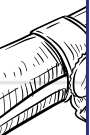
Another great option: offer business-attire drives and interview-skills workshops at a local shelter.

Help spread awareness on social media using #SoroptimistUpliftHER. [Get more info and shareable graphics here.](#)

[Meet the 2026–2027 Federation Board](#)

Live Your Dream: New AI Guidance

SIA has updated its stance on AI use in Live Your Dream applications, recognizing it as a valuable tool for applicants — within clear limits and best practices, known as "Guided Use." [Read the full update here.](#)



SI Foundation News

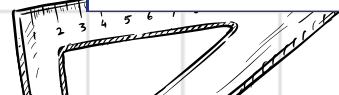
Soroptimist International Foundation was established in March 2021 as a charitable trust to allow Soroptimist International to accurately account for its project work, leverage its charitable status, and enhance its ability to apply for grants and funding.

Soroptimist International Foundation receives funding from Soroptimist donations, legacies, grants, and other funding sources.

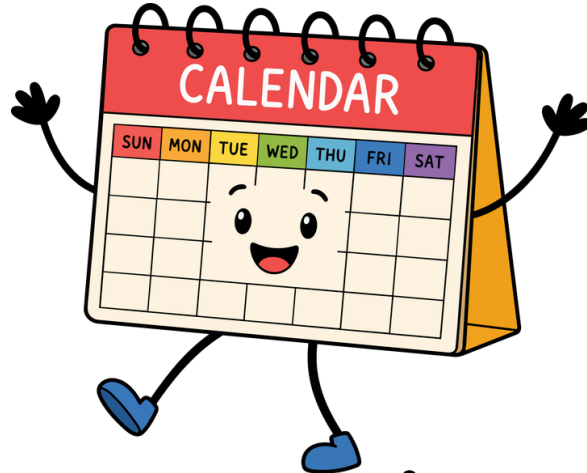
The Foundation replaced the President's Appeal. Donations are accepted any time of year. Visit their website to learn more about the projects.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/si-foundation/latest-projects/>

Founder Region Email: founderregionemail@gmail.com



Calendar of Important Dates



Upcoming:

November 15, LYD Portal Closes

December 1, Nominations due for the nominating committee

December 15, Violet Richardson Applications close

January 15, LYD Club winners due for early incentive drawing.

A HANDS-ON HOUR AT YOUR DISTRICT MEETING

Empowering Ourselves, Too

Practical AI for your Soroptimist club

A flyer, a Facebook post, and a text message.

All in one sitting.

District I & II • Saturday, October 3

District III & IV • Saturday, October 10

District V • Saturday, October 17



si-founderregion.org



Founder Region Fellowship

Founder Region Fellowship President's Message



Founder Region Fellowship President's Message

Fall is here, and that means Founder Region District meetings. By now, many clubs that were on summer hiatus are back in full swing and selling Fellowship drawing tickets (log sheet numbers) to all club members. We are so grateful for your support and hope this is our largest fundraiser yet. Remember to bring your club basket to the district meetings with a value of \$100.00. We will do a random drawing of numbers to select winners at each district meeting, and you could be a lucky winner of not only a basket of wonderful items but also a Fellowship. We will draw 2 Fellows at each meeting from the clubs that sell all their tickets.

We all love to shop, right? Wait until you see all the fun new merchandise we will have to offer to help support our Fellowship program. Our themed logo for this biennium will be displayed on pins, T-shirts, fleece jackets, and mouse pads. We will also have our President's pins, Past Presidents' pins, lunch coolers, and other items. Your new Fellowship Directors are eager to visit your clubs and get to know your members. That was my favorite part of my job as District Director. Please give them a few minutes on your busy agendas so your new members can hear about the Fellowship program that supports our awardees in the final phase of their doctoral programs.

We promised you updates on the Board's progress since our last board meeting. The Directors are busy contacting universities to update our contact information. They have attended the fall PRT meetings and are starting their club visits. We have already seen new monthly givers and new first-level Fellowship members join our cause.

The Board will also begin reviewing the application process, as we will open the portal in mid-October and close in mid-January.

New this year, the Board voted to amend our policies and procedures to allow Fellowship members to apply to review grant applications. We will invite one member from each district to serve on a review panel, giving the selection process a broader, more open perspective. According to our Bylaws, the Board will have the final vote on the chosen applicants. We felt this would give our members further buy-in to the Fellowship program and give the Board additional input and an outside perspective. Watch for an application to be a reader in January.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming district meetings, and thank you for your continued support of Founder Region Fellowship and the women whose lives are forever changed through education.

With gratitude,
Kay Kelley, President
Cara Begley, Treasurer
Kenya Broadnax, District I Director
Debi Schrader, District II Director
Nancy Weber, District III Director
Loretta Tognoli, District IV Director
Teri Lynn Sato, District V Director

New merchandise is available for a donation to Founder Region Fellowship.



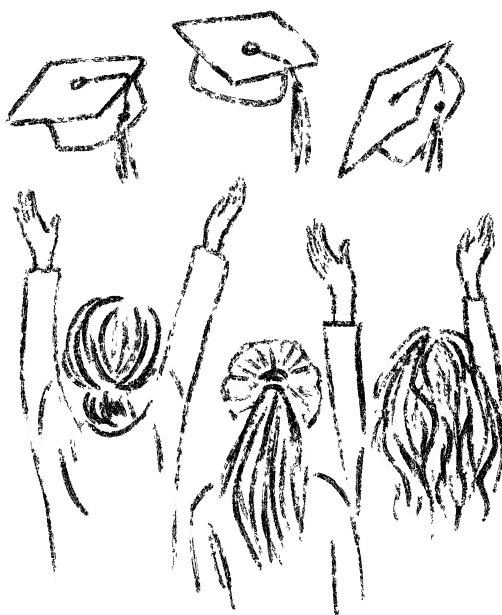
T Shirt



Mouse Pad



Lapel Pin





Program Pillar - VRA

By: Kristal Koga, Founder Region Governor-elect

Celebrating Young Volunteers Through the Violet Richardson Award

Welcome to the new biennium and club year! As we begin implementing the Soroptimist programs that make a difference in the lives of women and girls, this is a wonderful time to focus on the **Violet Richardson Award**.

Named in honor of Violet Richardson, the president of the first Soroptimist club in Alameda County in 1921, this award recognizes young women ages 14 to 18 who demonstrate outstanding volunteer action in their communities.

These young women are making a difference by addressing important issues such as drugs, crime and violence, environmental concerns, discrimination, and poverty. Through their service, they demonstrate leadership, compassion, and a commitment to creating positive change. The program begins at the local Soroptimist club level, where clubs may choose how to recognize their Violet Richardson Award recipient. Recognition may range from a certificate presented at a club meeting or special event to a monetary gift for the young woman and/or her chosen charity. Each district will select one Violet Richardson Award winner, who will be recognized and receive her award at our annual conference. Please remember these important dates: club applications are due by December 15, club-level judging takes place from December through January, and the winning applicant's application and required forms must be submitted to your District Representative by February 1. Your District Representative's contact information may be found on the Region roster located on the Region website.

Let us encourage the remarkable young women in our communities to share their stories of service and leadership. Through the Violet Richardson Award, we have an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and inspire the next generation of volunteers and leaders.





Dream It. Be It

By Dawn Shepherd, Founder Region DI, BI Chair

Hello Founder Region,

My name is Dawn Shepherd, and I am your Founder Region Dream It, Be It (DiBi) chair for 2026-2028. I am very excited to take this journey with you all.

Dream It, Be It is one of SIA's DREAM Programs. The program focuses on career support for girls, and the target audience is girls ages 14-18. This program provides girls with guidance, training, and resources that will help prepare them for career success.

You can view the Program resources by visiting soroptimist.org. At the top of the page, click on "for clubs and members", then scroll to the bottom of the page where you will see "Access Dream Program Materials". Click on "Get Started with Dream It, Be It." This is the perfect place for you to begin to become familiar with the program. The program may seem intimidating or overwhelming, but you really can simplify and tailor the program to be yours.

I will be reaching out to Founder Region DI, BI Club Chairs via email in the near future, inviting them to attend a Zoom forum where we can discuss the program and I can help guide members through the DiBi process.

I am looking forward to working with our Region Clubs. Enjoy your September!





Live Your Dream

By Maida Herbst, Founder Region Live Your Dream Chair

This fall, clubs are continuing to recruit LYD applicants! Use this link to give potential applicants more information:

<http://bit.ly/LYDA-apply>

The Application System (formerly the portal) opened to club LYD chairs and applicants on August 1. **LYD chairs**, don't forget to sign the confidentiality agreement! You might be able to access your account, but you won't be able to see any submitted applications until SIA receives your confidentiality agreement. Click on this link to access your account:

<https://apply.soroptimist.org/>

The Application System made some changes last year. There is more financial information requested, so there is the potential for more follow-up with the applicants. Each club LYD chair should print out the new application and determine if the applicant is eligible. Please note that if the applicant graduates before January 2027, the club may give an award, but they cannot be the club's #1 winner for submission to your District.

Clubs can now have co-chairs who both have access to the Application System. Email your LYD District Representative if you want to add a LYD co-chair.

Eligibility: Quickly review your applications as they come into your Application System, and if they are ineligible, update the Application System so you only have eligible candidates.

Please consider giving one more award if your club budget allows. A runner-up would be encouraged by receiving even \$500 - \$1,000. Our goal is to help more women.

Maida Herbst

maidarhia@aol.com

707-337-7673 (between 8 AM and 8 PM)

